

TOP SECRET

OUTGOING MESSAGE
(By Special Means)

LN/dem 25 Oct 61
0940 hrs

TO: CJCS

Please deliver immediately.

PERSONAL FOR GEN LEMNITZER FROM GEN NORSTAD.

Last night U. S. licensed vehicles with passengers in civilian clothes were stopped by the GDR at the Friedrichstrasse Gate. This morning at 0530Z a privately-owned U. S. licensed vehicle with a passenger in civilian clothes was sent in [REDACTED] which entered and exited without incident. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] U. S. officer, Berlin, demanded a Soviet officer within an hour. Watson has just reported that the Soviet officer appeared and stated that the GDR had taken the decision not to recognize U. S. license plates and to stop privately-owned vehicles whose passengers did not show identification as demanded. The Soviet officer further indicated that on the basis of the GDR decision, U. S. vehicles in this category could not enter. At this time they are still talking at the border, but it appears that we may be faced with a showdown.

Watson has been instructed to demand that the Soviet officer raise this question with his own highest local authorities. If this is done,

DECLASSIFIED WITH DELETIONS
Serial 1963141
Agency Case ODR 21-1111-051
NLE Case 19-17-3
By [signature] NLE Date 11/1/81

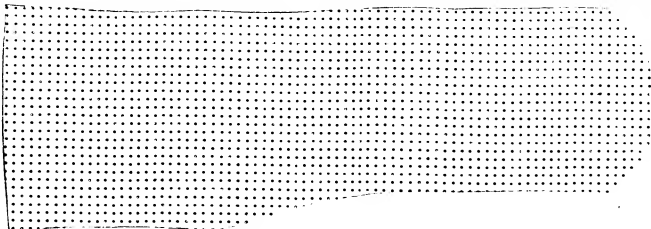
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no action will be taken pending reaction from these high Russian authorities.

If, however, the Soviet officer indicates that he is speaking with the authority of his higher authorities, or refuses to take the matter further,



Like other incidents of this kind over the last month or so, this may well blow over. On the other hand, a foundation has certainly been established for a showdown and I believe that the U. S. Government should be made aware of this at once. J

550- info D/CINCEUR-

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Since dictating the above, further contact with Watson indicates that discussions are still taking place with the Russian Officer, who is awaiting his Political Advisor. I have again reiterated the necessity of the highest local Russian authority having knowledge of this incident.

SSO - Info for Gen Palmer

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